Effect of Indo-Pak relations on economy

3145. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tension at Indo-Pak border has an adverse effect on our economy;

(b) if so, whether many of our welfare programmes have been greatly affected; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir. The basic fundamentals of the economy have remained strong despite the hostile environment at the border.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Strengthening national security has been an overriding concern of the Government. The Union Budget (2002-03) has provided Rs. 65,000 crore as defence expenditure for the current financial year. The Budget has also committed to provide more resources to defence requirements, if the need arises. In addition, a 5 per cent across-the-board surcharge has been proposed on all categories of taxpayers (except individuals and Hindu Undivided Families having total income upto Rs. 60,000) for mobilising resources for augmenting national security.

Budgetary nightmare for cancer patients

3146. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in 'The Indian Express', dated the 15th March, 2002, under the heading "Have some sympathy, Mr. Sinha-Budgcting nightmares for cancer patients"; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and what corrective steps have been taken or Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The providing of level playing field to indigenous manufacturers of vital drugs through imposition of import duty/C.V.D. is considered essential to ensure the health security of the country. The step undertaken in the Budget will, in the long run, moderate the cost of cancer drugs for the patients.

Top tax defaulters

3147. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 221 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th July, 2000 and state the details of 100 top tax defaulters as on 31st March, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): The details of 100 top tax defaulters as on 31st March, 2001 are given in the annexed statement.

Statement

List of top 100 *Income-tax defaulters as on* 31-3-2001

SI. No	Name	Status	Rs. (in Crore)
1.	Harsh ad S. Mehta	INDL.	5400
2.	Sahara India Financial Corpn. Ltd.	CO.	2497
3.	Hiten P. Dalai	INDL.	1417
4.	Sahara India Mutual Benefit Co. Ltd.	CO.	1367
5.	Bhupendra C. Dalai	INDL.	745
6.	Ash win S. Mehta	INDL.	643